

Brussels, 6 June 2000

8983/00 (Presse 195)

P 79/00

**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
on the Solomon Islands**

The European Union condemns the attempt to overthrow the democratically elected Government of the Solomon Islands. It calls for the immediate and safe release of the Prime Minister, Mr Bartholomew Ulafa'alu, and others held by the Malaitan Eagle Force. It urges strict respect for the democratic norms and procedures of the constitution. It emphasises that the peace process in the Solomon Islands can only be successfully pursued through peaceful negotiation not the use of armed force.

The Central and Eastern European Countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the EFTA countries, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.

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